

October 7, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS
PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVES

FROM: Mark Forman /signed/
Associate Director for Information
Technology and E-government

SUBJECT: Business Partner Network

Electronic government is one of the five key elements in the President's Management Agenda. The President's Budget outlined how we will focus our e-Government initiatives on reforming the Government so that it delivers results that matter to citizens. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the Business Partner Network (BPN), which will centrally provide information needed for transactions with private and public partners. In addition, we ask for your assistance and support in these efforts.

As part of the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE) E-Government initiative, the existing Department of Defense Central Contractor Registration system will be expanded into a Business Partner Network that will be used by all agencies. The BPN will include grantees, Federal entities, and companies seeking to do business with the Federal government. This expansion will require all those seeking to do business with the Federal government to register within the BPN.

Using this information, the BPN will provide a web-enabled capability for identifying Federal and industry trading partners. The BPN will create a one-stop source of information about trading partners, such as Equal Employment Opportunity compliance checks, size status, the Excluded Parties List information, and past performance evaluations. The attachments to this memorandum describe the vision and benefits of the BPN as well as an overview of how it will be used for commercial acquisition, intra-governmental transactions, and grants.

You should anticipate changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulation in the upcoming months that will mandate the use of the BPN for: (1) registration of vendors; (2) on-line representations and certifications; and (3) electronic funds transfer data source. Each agency will be required to determine the best method to integrate BPN data into existing procurement, financial and program systems. In the meantime, I encourage your support and appreciate your commitment to the services of the BPN.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to carrying out the President's Management Agenda. Additional information concerning this memorandum, the BPN or other IAE initiatives can be found at www.acqnet.gov under "e-Gov Initiatives," particularly under "Intra-governmental Information Forum". Other questions may be directed to the IAE Program Manager, Teresa Sorrenti at teresa.sorrenti@gsa.gov or (703) 872-8610. Names of designated agency registration officials described in the attachment are due by November 1, 2002.

Attachments